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Gravel Asks U.S. Judge If Jury Is Probing Him

By JAMES DOYLE
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Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, has asked a federal judge in Boston to determine whether a federal grand jury meeting there is investigating his actions in publishing parts of the secret Pentagon papers.

Gravel asked U.S. District Court Judge W. Arthur Garrity yesterday for permission to intervene in the case of Leonard Rodberg, a recently hired Gravel aide, who was subpoenaed to appear before the grand jury.

In a statement released by his office, Gravel said his motion to intervene is the only way he can determine whether the grand jury proceedings involve him or his actions in reading parts of the Pentagon papers into the record of a hastily called midnight public hearing of his Building and Grounds subcommittee in June.

Hearing Set For Sept. 10

Garrity postponed Rodberg's appearance before the grand jury, and set Sept. 10 for a hearing on various motions in the case.

Rodberg is a resident fellow of the Institute for Policy Studies, a Washington "think tank" which describes itself as representing a radical view of American foreign policy and which has produced several critical studies of foreign policy decisions.

He has been employed by Gravel to edit the transcript of the public hearing at which the papers were put in the record.

The Institute for Policy Studies is known to have had access to some of the Pentagon papers

before Ellsberg released them to the press.

Several newspapers were offered an analysis of the papers written by members of the institute before the Times began its publication.

Gravel's office did not know whether Rodberg's appearance before the grand jury related to his work with the senator or his work with the institute.

"I deplore the unwarranted secrecy which typifies the government's attitude in this matter," Gravel said in a statement.